

some were adaptations; while others were of wholly English origin. The following pages contain a brief summary of these books so that comparison with Chesterfield's Letters to his Son may be made.

Il Principe was written while Machiavelli was living in retirement near San Casciano. Machiavelli wrote Il Principe to Lorenzo, son of Piero de Medici Lorenzo, Duke of Urbino, with the hope that the presentation of it to Guiliano de Medici at Florence might effect his return to ease and political influence. The book is the famous text-book of Machiavelian policy.¹ It is chiefly devoted to the character which must be possessed by the prince who has become the ruler of a state, by conquest, election, or hereditary right, and wishes to retain his power. Towards the close of the work he discusses the question "Whether Princes should be faithful to their Engagements?" and decides they should not be so, unless this course be for their interest; hence, the "Machiavelian policy." Schelling states the "Renaissance stimulated the frank, philosophical cynicism of Machiavelli's Prince."²

The Boke, Named the Governour is the first book on the subject of education written and printed in the English language,³ and the "first to bring the Renaissance spirit to the application of the English language. It is a compendium of the education which those who are destined to govern ought to receive. Elyot maps out

3 (Cont'd.) Alexander Barclay; Certain Eplogs of Alexander Barclay (1570); Il Galateo (1545) by Monsignor Giovanni de la Casa, translated under the title The Refined Courtier (1576) by Peterson; Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit (1578) by John Lyly; Euphues and His England (1580) by John Lyly; and Arcadia (1590) by Sir Philip Sidney.

1. Il Principe, Introduction.

2. English Literature During the Time of Shakespeare, p 4.

3. The Boke, Named the Governour, Intro. p 11.